



Brazil 2016



Newsletter #2
February 2016

Dear YASC Brazil Participants:

We are busy with project planning for this spring's service trip to Serra Grande in Bahia, Brazil, and have been energized by your ideas and enthusiasm! Included in this newsletter are:

- Important information about project planning,
- Links to enable you to meet other trip participants,
- Flight and visa information, and
- a list of relevant books, videos, and other resources about Brazil.

First, please review some **critical travel information**. We trust that by now you have looked into airplane flights and have received your Brazil visa or are in the process of receiving it. If you have not purchased your tickets or started your visa process - **DO IT NOW**. All details about appropriate timing for your international flights and options for securing your visa are in newsletter #1. If you cannot find the first newsletter, please contact Nadya (646-820-1286), nadya.zawrocki@gmail.com, FB: www.facebook.com/nadya.zawrocki, or Joao (203-432-1943), joao.aleixo@yale.edu immediately.

In addition to your flight information, we urgently need your passport information! If you have not yet done so, please visit the following link and enter your information exactly as it appears on your passport:

<https://goo.gl/HE4IGz>

For up-to-date travel and safety information about Brazil, please refer to the State Department website:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/brazil.html>

Please consult with your physician or go to a travel clinic to discuss disease prevention for travelling to Brazil. The requirements for those going on pre- or post-trip extensions may differ than for those who will spend their time entirely in Serra Grande. Here is the link to the Center for Disease Control website for more information:

http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/brazil?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS

Read all the information in this newsletter!

Print the newsletters and most updated project team list for your project(s) and keep them handy.

Confirm with Joao via email that you have received your package in the mail that includes your name tag, tour book, participant directory, t-shirt, bag, and travel bag tags. **If your t-shirt does not fit, please bring it on the trip to exchange it for a better fitting size if we have one available. We have a limited number of t-shirts so you must return a t-shirt in order to get a new one!**

Confirm with Joao that you have received your Brazilian tourist visa.



BOOKS AND MOVIES ABOUT BRAZIL

You have already received a list of Brazilian readings that one of our fellow volunteers was kind enough to put together. Here is an additional list of books and movies you may also find helpful:

Books

Fiction by Jorje Amado, "Brazil's most illustrious and venerable novelist" according to the New York Times. "Captains of the Sands," or "Dona Flor and her Two Husbands."

"Own Man" by Edgard Ribero.

"The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey" by Candice Millard. "A thrilling, true account of Roosevelt's harrowing exploration of the Amazon."

"The End of the Rainy Season: Discovering my family's hidden past in Brazil." by Marian Lindberg. A memoir that also serves as a great travelogue about the Amazon and other parts of Brazil.

"Performing Brazil: Essays on culture, identity and the performing arts." Univ of Wisconsin Press, 2015.

Movies:

"Kiss of the Spider Woman"

"Pixote"

Also... from Lonely Planet <http://www.lonelyplanet.com/brazil/rio-de-janeiro/travel-tips-and-articles/67555>

CONNECTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Please send me a friend request on Facebook so that I may add you to our Serra Grande group page where you can find fellow Brazil volunteers and community members whom we will be working alongside in Serra Grande. You can also use this page to share trip-related information with others. Find me at: <https://www.facebook.com/nadya.zawrocki>



YOUR DEDICATED PROJECT LEADERS!

We are continuing to refine our projects with our Brazil partners based on community interest and feedback we have gotten from our conversations with you. By now you should have heard from your project leader(s) by email and phone. If you have not received any emails, please reach out to them directly as soon as possible:

Athletics

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Education

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We appreciate the time and preparation so many of you have been able to put in to the projects with your leaders. We can assure you that your time spent in preparation and active involvement in this pre-trip planning process will result in a more meaningful experience for all once we're on the ground in Serra Grande. For volunteers who will be able to participate more fully once we are in Serra Grande; we appreciate your contributions and feedback as well! **We are counting on all of you to hit the ground running, maintain your flexibility and optimism when things take turns we hadn't foreseen, and keep your team spirit!!** Your project leaders have done a lot of foot work before the trip, including visiting the work sites last year, so they have put a tremendous amount of effort into gathering as much information in Brazil as well as by communicating with the local community contacts and leaders to move forward with our service project plans. Please be sure to thank them for all of the work they have done to make our inaugural trip to Brazil as successful as it can be!

PROJECT PLANS

Environment led by William Rossbach '71 and Phil Sussler '79



The Atlantic Forest region surrounding Serra Grande is one of the most productive and biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. It is also one of the most threatened. Our Brazilian partner, Floresta Viva, is deeply integrated with the local community and nearby university, Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz (UESC). Its stated mission is to “promote human development allied to the conservation of nature.” Our primary goals are:

- 1) educating and training adults and high school students in Serra Grande on the character, importance, and value of the Atlantic Forest ecosystem,
- 2) engaging the participants in actual forestry/nursery field work, and
- 3) providing inspiration for further education and possible employment.

We are planning to begin planting a botanical garden, teach community members about planting and cultivating seedling trees and plants and the importance of forest restoration, and planting trees along the watershed at the edge of the community.

Education & Extended Arts led by Judy Crawford '76 and Trudie Agbozo '05

In keeping with what we learned about the community’s acknowledgment of the critical importance of the surrounding ecosystem, we are focusing our educational efforts on environmental issues to supplement the regular school programs. We are planning a program to teach children about environmental protection and reforestation and recycling at school as well as at home, to promote their knowledge of what happens to their recycling, and perhaps to make books to remind them of recycling. In addition, we anticipate programs to teach fun science, math, and geography, organize arts and videography programs. To encourage awareness of and promote the value of education we are also working with the nearby university, UESC, to bring university students to make presentations to the older students on economic and other reasons to continue and complete their education.

Public Health led by Cheryl Davis '76



Based on information from our advance planning trip, we know that the principal public health issues are depression and mental health issues, particularly in school-aged children; alcohol and drug abuse, and teen pregnancy. The community has the capability to provide most basic screenings and can send tests to local labs. They offer information on prevention but need help with promoting the use of these services within the community as well as following up

with referrals for service available outside of Serra Grande. To promote the health clinic, we will be setting up a health fair outside the clinic dedicated to health education and prevention information, including maternal health and basic hygiene. We plan to distribute toothbrushes and toothpaste, screen for and distribute eye glasses, teach pregnancy and STD prevention education in the schools and make condoms available to community members, and do community outreach to people's homes to encourage them to come to the health fair. We will also have some of our volunteers, UESC students, and teens create a fun video to disseminate education about drug/alcohol treatment and pregnancy and STD prevention. We also hope to have activities including a 'train the trainer' program with the local medical workers on mindfulness meditation including yoga.

Business consulting led by Ann Nock (Oxford alumna)



The business consulting group will work with Taboá, a local organization that helps community members with consulting services including marketing and advertising as well as financial literacy classes, provides micro loans and grants, and works with local organizations to provide donations for various projects. Tentative projects for our group will include the development and delivery of financial literary classes, marketing, and consulting services.

Construction led by Andrew Garling '68

We are building 3 or 4 picnic-style tables with benches for the community to have seating in their center plaza for congregation and leisure. We might build one of the tables in a scaled down children's size for the village library.

Athletics led by Wayne Caccamo SOM '87

There are ample facilities to organize a wide array of athletic/sports activities during the trip. Most of these activities will take place in a large soccer field. There is also a smaller soccer field with dimensions similar to an indoor soccer arena so we can organize additional sessions in this location. Based on the interaction with the key person in the community who is familiar with sports, it is important to organize boys and girls soccer sessions at multiple skill levels as well track and we can introduce other sports these kids have not been exposed to as much before such as Frisbee!



UESC, INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATION



Universidade Estadual de Santa Cruz



We have had great collaboration with UESC. Isaias Carvalho, Professor of Anglophone Literature and English Language and Marcelo Pires de Oliveira, Professor of Social Communication, have worked very hard to gather a team of bi-lingual

students to work with our project leaders in advance of the trip and on the ground with us.

In addition to the eight students they assigned to our projects, **they have organized an additional 50 bi-lingual students to join us Monday through Friday on our projects. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL!!** Take some time to get to know them and be sure to thank your UESC students and the UESC team for all of their help in making our program a success!! The eight UESC project students have been added to the participant list.



PROJECT SUPPLIES

Your leaders will be working with you and the rest of your team to determine and coordinate supplies. Some supplies should be purchased at home and brought to Brazil, and others can be purchased in or around Serra Grande the weekend we arrive. If you are traveling on a tourist visa (as most of us are), you should not be bringing in supplies for a work effort although you are permitted to bring in donations. You might be stopped at customs if you are carrying a large quantity of supplies. Please indicate that it is a donation to a local community you will visit. UESC is reviewing a letter for you to carry with you and present if you are stopped at customs. If you have any further questions about this, please email Joao and me as soon as possible.

IMMEDIATE HELP NEEDED! Wayne Caccamo, Athletics leader, needs help with bringing sports supplies! Please contact Wayne if you are willing to help bring down a few items at: wayne.caccamo@gmail.com. Also, Steve Harvey, one of our Public Health leaders, collected 3,000 condoms for us to bring for our Public Health prevention efforts! We need help bringing the supply into Brazil. Please email Joao and I if you can help bring down a few dozen in your luggage, preferably if you live in New York!

ADDITION TO ITINERARY

We received feedback from one of our project leaders, Wayne Caccamo, about several volunteers inquiring about the possibility to visit the rainforest during our service trip. We have made changes to the schedule to allow for the entire group to visit Fazenda Juerana Milagrosa Ecodge! We will have a guided tour through the rainforest and visit a waterfall. We know that you will enjoy this immensely and hope you bring your bathing suits to the waterfall!

CAPOEIRA!



Join in the fun! Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art that combines elements of music, dance and acrobatics. It was developed by Brazilians of West African descent. In Serra Grande, Master Cabello, a professional *capoeirista* with over 27 years of experience, has created the cultural center Barracão D`Angola. Some of us watched capoeira there last March, played traditional Brazilian percussion instruments such as the caixixi, and

took part in a drum circle. Now it will be your turn! To learn more about Barracão D`Angola, check out <http://barracaodangola.com/>. To see an example of capoeira (so you can practice!), visit this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HOD8Valli0>

Thank you all for your work and preparation to this point; we are counting down the days when we get to see all of you in person and when you get to meet the community we will be working with in Serra Grande!

Best,

Nadya

João

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